

William Charles Cole Claiborne to Andrew Jackson, September 20, 1814, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

GOVERNOR CLAIBORNE TO JACKSON.

New Orleans, September 20, 1814.

Sir, Louisiana has at this moment much to apprehend from Domestic Insurrection; We have every reason to beleive that the Enemy has been intriguing with our slaves, and from a variety of circumstances, we have much cause to suspect that they on their part, meditate mischief. I have directed every measure of precaution which prudence suggested, and am happy to find that the citizens are disposed Zealously to support me. Knowing how necessary a corps of cavalry would be in case of Revolt among the slaves, and beleiving that at the Present moment, they would be particularly useful in acquiring and forwarding information I have, without awaiting the return of Colo. Shaumburg, ordered the Feliciana Troop of Cavalry to repair immediately to New Orleans, and I shall make on the Quarter Master General a requisition for all necessary supplies. I have also encouraged a number of Gentlemen of New Orleans to form a volunteer corps of Cavalry, and with a promise, that whilst on duty they should be furnished with Forage for their Horses by the Public. I hope sir, these measures may meet your approbation and that you will direct, the Keeper of the Military stores to deliver on my receipt, for the use of these corps (whilst in public service) such number of swords and Pistols as may be required.

In my Letter of Yesterday I mentioned that many of the fugitives from Barataria had reached the city. Among them are some St. Domingo negro's of the most desperate characters and probably no worse than most of their white associates. I attended a meeting of the mayor and city Council on this morning and strongly urged the necessity

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of adopting some strong measures of police and particularly as related to slaves, and the visits and Residence of strangers. The Mayor and Council seemed fully impressed with the importance of the crisis; and will I hope act with promptitude and decision. . . .